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BOOK REVIEWS

Prammers Schulwörterbuch zu Cäsars Bellum Gallicum. Bearbeitet von DR. ANTON POLASCHEK. Zweite Auflage. Mit 61 Abbildungen und Karten. F. Tempsky, Vienna and Prague. 1897.

THIS special lexicon to the Gallic War is a model of its kind. It is fuller than the vocabularies printed at the end of the American editions of Cæsar, containing 237 large octavo pages besides the introductory matter; it does not, however, aim to take the place of a commentary, or to relieve the student of mental effort by citing every passage with a meaning appropriate for it. Under each word we find the original or general signification given with much care, then the meanings that occur in the Gallic War; in this way the objection often raised against special dictionaries, that they present words in a wrong perspective, is fully met. Military terms are discussed at length, but with a simplicity of statement within the comprehension of the student.

The illustrations are from good sources, and of special merit. While some of them, notably the battle plans and most of those illustrating equipment, are familiar to American teachers, a number of the best are from books not commonly accessible; this is the case particularly with the well-executed reproductions of reliefs from the column of Trajan, which throw light on various military operations. All the illustrations except the battle plans are accurately described.

The volume has an attractive binding, and the price (1 fl. 20 kr. = \$0.55) is surprisingly low. Teachers of Cæsar will find this book a useful addition to their list of helps.

F. W. K.

Captives and Trinummus of Plautus. By E. P. MORRIS, Professor of Latin in Yale University. College Series of Latin Authors. Ginn & Co.

IN addition to the few facts that are known regarding the life of Plautus, the subjects which are briefly treated in the introduction of this book are: the Roman games at which plays were presented to the

public, the style in which the comedies are written, their relation to the Greek originals, and the esteem in which Plautus was held by his countrymen of his own and of a later time. A large part of the introduction is devoted to syntax, as was to be expected, since for many reasons that may be regarded as the most attractive and the most productive field of Plautine study. The prominent characteristics of colloquial Latin are enumerated in such a manner as to make one wish that this topic might have received further consideration. The prosody of the plays is explained concisely and fully. In short, the introduction seems to lack no important feature, unless some may miss a general treatment of the unclassical forms used by Plautus.

The text is that of Goetz and Schoell. Some of the most mutilated passages appear as they are found in the MSS.; but, in general, conjectural readings are given to make sense and correct meter. Of the appropriateness of these restorations each one is entitled to his own opinion. It can hardly be questioned, however, that it is better for the average student to have a text *probabiliter restitutus* than to be obliged to gaze helplessly at daggers and stars.

The notes are placed at the bottom of the page. The passages for annotation are judiciously selected, and the notes are worded with extreme care; they also contain surprising richness and variety of material. The conciseness seen throughout the book makes one think that the editor must have felt hampered by limitations of space; at least it may be said that there are a few passages where the ordinary student who has read only Cicero, Livy, and Horace would appreciate more assistance than the notes afford him.

A very few misprints, such as buanont for abnuont (Capt. 481), have undoubtedly been already noticed and corrected.

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Elementary Botany. By GEORGE FRANCIS ADKINSON, PH.B., Professor of Botany in Cornell University. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 444 pp.

THIS is another book which heralds the coming of a new dispensation in the teaching of botany. Professor Atkinson believes in studying how plants live, and therefore structure falls into its proper secondary place. Every successful teacher has his own way of putting